

II. Settlement and Demarcation.

G. DEMARCATION—*concluded.*

155. Surveys for the purpose of demarcating forests merely need not necessarily be made under the provisions of Chapters VIII to X of the Revenue Code. Section 8 of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, empowers a Forest Settlement Officer to enter by himself, or any officer authorized by him for the purpose, upon any land and to survey, demarcate and make a map of the same, and this appears to be quite sufficient for all the purposes of the Forest Act. Such survey and demarcation can, however, only take place after a notification declaring that it is proposed to constitute a reserved forest has been issued under section 4 of the Forest Act. In such notification it is "sufficient to describe the limits of the forest by roads, rivers, ridges or other well-known or readily intelligible boundaries" (*vide* explanation 1 to section 4). In the notification finally declaring a forest reserved, to be issued under section 19, the limits must be specified "definitely, according to boundary-marks erected or otherwise."*

156. To throw up river bank forest to attain symmetry of boundary or to provide a small additional area of land for cultivation is in the opinion of Government a mistaken policy. The splitting up of survey numbers should be most carefully avoided, except in cases where owing to the very large size of the number or any other very special cause such a course is found to be absolutely necessary. Resort should certainly not be had to it merely to secure straight and even boundary lines.†

H. Settlement and Demarcation Report.

157. The papers of a forest settlement when placed before Government should comprise :—

Data required in the Settlement Report.

(1) a list of already notified reserves as they are to be retained permanently ;

(2) a list of notified reserved lands which it is proposed to exclude from reserves, with reasons in detail, and the views of the District Forest Officer ;

(3) a list of new lands which it is proposed to constitute reserved forest (to be notified under section 4), with reasons ;

(4) a list of lands, if any, which it is proposed to make protected forest under section 28 ; perhaps also

(5) a list of occupied lands which it is desirable to acquire for forests ; and

(6) a record of rights awarded in reserves.

* L. R. No. 358, dated 17th March 1883, *vide* Government Resolution No. 2813, dated 9th April 1883.

† Government Resolution No. 641, dated 24th January 1889.

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Where the work of forest settlement is to be done by a young officer of two or three years' service, and especially when there has been previous discussion, the Collector may secure a great economy of time and labour by laying down a general plan after consulting with the District Forest Officer before the Settlement Officer begins his work, and indicating on the map in what localities the notified forests chiefly seem to require enlargement, reduction or consolidation. He might also, with excellent effect, supervise and direct his Assistant's forest work and assure himself that his proceedings are guided by right principles and recorded in a clear and intelligible way.*

158. It is desirable, as a general rule, that a Demarcation Report should also be a Settlement Report, and still more desirable that when proposals for the forest demarcation of a taluka are submitted they should at least be accompanied by a full statement of the nature and extent of the forest privileges, of which the grant is advocated. In cases where the combination of a report on the settlement with a report on the demarcation would materially delay the submission of a report for a taluka the Demarcation Report should be supplied separately, but in such instances the report on the demarcation should clearly state the forest privileges recommended to be given.†

159. The following instructions to Forest Settlement Officers, Commissioners, Collectors, Assistant Collectors and Forest Officers have been laid down by Government :—

1. No precise instructions having been issued as to the form in which proposals for the demarcation and settlement of forests should be placed before Government, the reports of the Forest Settlement Officers are not uniform and are often less complete than is desirable. Government should be in possession of all relevant facts needed for a decision whether both the interests of agriculture and the requirements of forest conservancy have been adequately regarded, and if these facts are carefully collected and arranged before the Collectors, Commissioners and Conservators from their conclusions upon them, there will be a greater probability that the Revenue and Forest Officers will be able to submit to Government a scheme on which they are all substantially agreed.

2. Such a scheme should comprise facts and proposals under the following heads :—

Demarcation of the area naturally suited for reservation as reserved or protected forests ; proposals for alternate closure and opening for grazing and other uses ; estimate of the number of cattle for which grazing can be provided ; months in which grazing is to be available ; probable amount of supply of cut

* Government Resolution No. 3245, dated 6th June 1881.

† Government Resolutions No. 3892, dated 14th May 1885 ; and No. 5007, dated 19th June 1885.

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grass from closed reserves; history of previous uses of all land enclosed in forests under heads of "old reserves," "free pasture," "assessed and unassessed waste;" review of live stock of taluka and purposes for which it is used, *i. e.*, for the agriculturists' personal uses or for profit; grazing resources of each village which has contributed land to forests; demand of each village for grazing in forests; opinions as to proportion of free grazing and grazing on fee, regard being had to the general regulations on the subject; what animals (sheep, goats, camels) are to be excluded; what privileges other than grazing are recommended; what rights are claimed and admitted; proposals for disforestation.

159a. The division of labour among the officers concerned in framing the settlement proposals, and the heads under which the officers concerned in their several tasks would fall, may be thus suggested:—

Part I.—The Forest Settlement Officer submits his demarcation proposals, stating the area to be constituted and maintained as reserved and protected forest. He works in consultation with the Revenue and Forest Officers of the district, is bound to have careful regard to their criticisms on behalf of the interests they represent respectively, and is expected to submit proposals which are either unanimously approved or contain full elucidation of any conflict of opinions.

Part II.—The submission of a provisional scheme by the Divisional Forest Officer and Conservator with illustrative map, for the utilization of the demarcated area, general plan of working, proportion and rotation of closed area where plantation and sowing will take place, stating time when it is likely to be taken up for forest uses, extent and locality of grazing land, capacity (estimated in acres per head) of the grazing land to admit cattle. The proposals should as far as possible have the concurrence of the Revenue Officers and should be submitted by the Forest Settlement Officer as Part II of his record. Parts I and II having dealt with the disposition and capacity of the forest area, Part III will deal with the popular requirements for its use. The data will be worked out by the Forest Settlement Officer thus* :—

Part III. The Forest Settlement Officer will supply†—

(a) The facts as to user for grazing and other forest produce as existing before his demarcation and his proceedings under the Forest Act respecting all the land included in the forest area. He should particularly note the area of "old reserves" included in the demarcated area, the density of forests in the old reserves, and state from what date these reserves have existed as such, and what has been the practice as to grazing or other privileges in them.

* Government Resolution No. 2480, dated 24th April 1888, has cancelled the words "and Revenue Officers conjointly."

† By Government Resolutions No. 2559, dated 2nd April 1886, and No. 4160, dated 10th June 1886, a form of village statistical statement to accompany Forest Settlement Reports has been prescribed.

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(b)* Statement by villages of *gáirán*, *gurcharan* or other free pasture (set apart under section 38, Land Revenue Code, or otherwise) included in demarcated area.

(c)* Statement by villages of unoccupied waste, assessed and unassessed, and of grazing land previously sold annually by Collector now included in demarcated area and of proceeds of such sale.

(d)* Statement by villages of any other grazing or cultivated land previously outside but now included in demarcated area, *e. g.*, occupied land bought or acquired by exchange.

The Forest Settlement Officer will supply particulars of:—

[NOTE.—It was formerly the Revenue Officer's duty to supply the following but this has been altered by the Government Resolution noted below, †]

(1) The local practice as to cattle-keeping for—

(a) the plough,

(b) dairy produce,

(c) breeding for sale;

also as to sheep and goats.

Whether the plough-cattle are grazed on forest areas or stall-fed. If the former, in what months forest grazing is demanded and in what months the cattle are at home. If the latter, whether the plough-cattle cannot be stall-fed by grass cut and taken from closed reserves. Whether sheep, goats and camels cannot be fed outside forest area.

(2) For each village contributing land to forests—

(a) The amount of grazing land in village limits not taken into forests; position of each village as to extension of cultivation; suggestions as to future use of such grazing lands as free pasture or to be sold annually by auction; quality and—where assessed—average assessment of this land.

(b) Cancelled by Government Resolution No. 9620, dated 20th December 1889.

(c) Analysis for each village of all grazing resources outside of forests and calculation of number of cattle which—

(a) can be provided with grazing in the village outside forests,

(b) can be stall-fed on grass cut in forests,

(c) must have grazing provided in forests, of which—

(i) how many for plough and supply of milk, etc., to owners,

(ii) how many for trade and profit.

* (b), (c) and (d) may conveniently be united in one statement, together with statistics of population, number of cattle, total area, area under cultivation, unoccupied waste, assessed and unassessed, left after demarcation.

† Government Resolution No. 2480, dated 24th April 1888.

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(3) Average acreage given out for cultivation during the last ten years.

(4) It is not intended that on these statistics exact rules should be formulated by Government for the limitation of cattle to be admitted to graze in forests, as that is a matter which should be left to local arrangement according to circumstances. The facts will enable Government to judge of the nature of the requirements of each case and the reasonableness of the scheme submitted, and they will also furnish the local Revenue and Forest Officers with a guide in shaping correctly the local regulations as to the opening of forest areas for grazing and the levy of fees.

159b. His Excellency in Council desires to repeat that the only satisfactory forest settlement scheme is that which, after full consideration of all interests, is unanimously recommended by both the departments with a clear demonstration that it adequately provides for the wants of agriculture as well as for judicious and beneficial forest conservancy.*

The report should be fully approved by both the Revenue and Forest Officers concerned.

160. All Forest Settlement and Demarcation Reports, with the remarks thereon of the officers concerned, should be submitted by the Commissioners to Government in print instead of in manuscript. The appendices to the reports may be submitted in manuscript.

Channel through which the report should be submitted.

160a. On receipt from the Commissioner of the manuscript report, the Superintendent, Government Central Press, should, in each case, ascertain in the usual way the number of copies required for the use of Government.

The report should be submitted in printed form to Government.

The Commissioners will ascertain in each case the number of copies required by the Revenue and Forest Officers and communicate it to the Superintendent, Government Central Press.†

Village-sites should be marked on the maps submitted with the report.

161. In all maps sent with Forest Demarcation Reports the different village-sites should be shown, so that their proximity to the proposed reserves might be seen at a glance.‡

162. When any demarcation has been finally sanctioned by Government the Demarcation Officer should forward to the Revenue Survey Department, through the Conservator of Forests, the copy of the village map or maps on which he has laid down the boundaries of the land included in the forest reserves showing by a distinguishing colour whether the reserve is of the first or second class; and in cases

* Government Resolution No. 7677, dated 22nd September 1885.

† Government Circular to the Divisional Commissioners, No. 3712, dated 1st June 1891.

‡ Government Resolution No. 4584, dated 10th August 1876.

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where both classes of reserves may be represented on the same map, indicating the limits of each by their respective colours. The position of the forest boundary marks should also be entered in the map.

The map should be accompanied with a statement showing in a tabular form the survey numbers, areas and assessment of such lands as have been included in the reserves. On receipt of these papers the Superintendent of Survey will make the necessary correction in the survey records, returning the demarcation map to the Conservator. The Superintendent should, at the same time, furnish the Conservator with two fresh copies of the village map with the forest boundaries shown thereon. The Superintendent should make the reduction of assessment appertaining to the lands taken up for the reserves, reporting the amount to the Commissioner in view to his issuing orders for its being deducted from the village accounts.*

163. The entire record of a Forest Settlement and Demarcation Officer, including original maps, proceedings, etc., should on the completion of the work be made over to the Collector and remain in his record room. Copies of such of the maps and documents as the Commissioners consider are likely to prove useful to Forest and Revenue Officers should be supplied to them.†

164. The forest register should contain an accurate statement of all rights and privileges. It should be prepared and signed by the Forest Settlement Officer after the work of settlement and demarcation is complete. In effecting settlements when no rights are admitted an entry to that effect should be made in the forest register.‡

III. BOUNDARIES, BOUNDARY-MARKS AND FENCING OF FORESTS.

A. Boundaries and Boundary-marks.

165. Prickly-pear should not be used for fencing when any other description of hedge is available.§

166. Care should be taken to practise economy in the erection of the longer description of boundary-marks in forest. There is no necessity for their being so near together as at intervals of a hundred feet. It will be advisable that the one on each side of it should be visible from each of these. With this exception, all intermediate bends may be denoted by smaller marks.||

* Government Resolution No. 7270, dated 11th December 1876.

† Government Resolutions No. 1265, dated 13th February 1891; and No. 2165, dated 24th March 1891.

‡ Government Resolutions No. 3263, dated 7th June 1881; and No. 7232, dated 12th September 1892.

§ Government Resolution No. 2169, dated 7th May 1870.

|| Government Resolution No. 4082, dated 23rd August 1871.